

Message Text

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15
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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV WDYESS :SB
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
----- 040410
R 140003Z JUN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 139505

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, ABLD, CGEN

SUBJECT: NEW YORK-KIEV CONSULAR PROPERTIES

1. SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR MYSHKOV REACTED VERY NEGATIVELY TO DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED EXCHANGE ON NOTES ON CONSULAR PROPERTIES (SEPTTEL). HE SAID THE SOVIETS COULD NOT ACCEPT OWNING BUILDING BUT NOT OCCUPYING IT (POINT 2 IN DEPARTMENT'S NOTE). THE REASON HE GAVE WAS PROTECTION FROM VANDALISM, BUT HE REJECTED THE POSSIBILITY OF USING A PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICE. HE WARNED THAT OUR PROPOSAL WOULD SET BACK THE KIEV NEW YORK OFFICES FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD. HE AGREED TO TRANSMIT THE PROPOSED NOTE TO MOSCOW, BUT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IT WOULD BE REJECTED. ON DEPARTING, MYSHKOV TOLD SOV OFFICER THAT IF DEPARTMENT HAD FALLBACK POSITION IT SHOULD BE LAID ON TABLE PROMPTLY; THAT IF SOVIETS LOST BUILDING IN NEW YORK THERE WOULD BE NO PROGRESS IN KIEV UNTIL SOVIETS FOUND ANOTHER BUILDING IN NEW YORK.

2. BEGIN FYI: DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSAL WAS WEAKER THAN ORIGINALLY CONTEMPLATED. IN EFFECT IT LETS THE SOVIETS CONFIDENTIAL

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INTO THEIR BUILDING AT THE TIME WORK STARTS ON OURS--
THUS GIVING THEM 12 TO 18 MONTH ADVANTAGE. DEPARTMENT
VIEWS PROPOSAL MADE TO MYSHKOV TO BE AN EMINENTLY

REASONABLE COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD ASSURE THEM OF THE BUILDING ON NINETY-FIRST STREET.

3. FYI. OWNERS OF BUILDING ON NINETY-FIRST STREET TOLD DEPARTMENT THAT WHILE THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO SELL, IT WAS SOVIET EMBASSY AND NOT THE OWNERS WHO SET THE "ULTIMATUM" TO CONCLUDE DEAL NOW. ACCORDING TO OWNERS, SOVIETS INSISTED OWNERS SIGN CONTRACT THIS WEEK AND GIVE SOVIETS UNTIL JUNE 23 TO REPLY. OWNERS ALSO REVEALED THAT ANOTHER PROPERTY AROUND THE CORNER HAD JUST COME ONTO THE MARKET WHICH SOVIETS MIGHT FIND PREFERABLE IF THEY LEARNED OF ITS AVAILABILITY; OWNERS THEREFORE AGREED TO SOVIET PROCEDURES AND TIMETABLE FOR CONCLUDING CONTRACT. IF TRANSACTION GOES THROUGH, FINAL SETTLEMENT WOULD BE AUGUST 1. END FYI.

4. IN ANY DISCUSSION WITH MFA, RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSY SAY THAT ALL THE NEGOTIATING FAT WAS ALREADY TRIMMED OUT OF OUR PROPOSAL. OBVIOUSLY IF THE SOVIETS WANT TO SUGGEST MINOR CHANGES DEPARTMENT IS ALWAYS PREPARED TO LISTEN.

5. FYI. MYSHKOV EXPRESSED CHAGRIN THAT IN NEGOTIATING 1974 COMMUNIQUE WITH MATLOCK HE ACCEPTED "SIMULTANEOUS ESTABLISHMENT" OF OFFICES WHEN HE REALLY INTENDED "OPENING." KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

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